

# Concern in Batavia on Prairie State costs

August 18, 2014

Dear editor;

As a Batavia resident, I'm incredibly concerned about our contract with the Prairie State Coal Plant by way of the Northern Illinois Municipal Power Agency. In 2007, Batavia was one of a few hundred municipalities across the Midwest, including Geneva, St. Charles, and Naperville, which signed a 30-year contract to become part-owner in the Prairie State Coal plant. Peabody Energy was building in southern Illinois.

Peabody was unable to find corporate investors willing to invest in the enterprise, but somehow convinced approximately 200 municipalities that Prairie

State could supply affordable, reliable, and clean electricity for the foreseeable future. None of these promises panned out.

Costs for constructing the plant went one billion dollars over bud-

even begin to cover the cost of our ownership which includes a \$7.5 Million offset to keep an industrial user from leaving Batavia, high coal plant maintenance costs, and unknown future environmental

costs when it sold Batavia the contract.

Please join representative Tim Schmitz and the Citizen Petitions sponsored by Ratepayers for Fair Electricity to ask the Batavia Council to request the attorney general to investigate possible fraud, or misrepresentation, by Peabody Energy that led us to invest in the Prairie State Energy Campus, at [bit.ly/batavia4accountability](http://bit.ly/batavia4accountability).

The next grassroots meeting will be Thursday, Aug. 28 at Unity of Fox Valley, 230 Webster Street, Batavia.

See related photos on page 11.

**Jeanette Hirt,  
Member,  
Unity Green Team,  
Batavia**

## READER'S VOICE

get. The price of power is double that which was originally promised. Batavia, which has contracted to purchase 55 megawatts (mw) per month, approximately 15 mw more than it needs, has had to raise its electrical rates and sales tax, and use a \$2 Million reserve fund to pay for the power.

These steps don't

risks for which we are liable. The plant is far from clean. It is, in fact, the largest point source of carbon dioxide built in the last 25 years in the entire U.S..

Because Prairie State's costs and production are so significantly off forecast, it's likely that Peabody knowingly presented incorrect information to City Coun-